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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 7670**
Tetsuya MATSUTANI : Attorney Docket No. 2003_1039A
Serial No. 10/630,681 : Group Art Unit 2812
Filed July 31, 2003 : Examiner Andre C. Stevenson
CONTACT HOLE FORMATION METHOD : **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant requests consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☒ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____; and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No. _____.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☒ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

*** Though JP 09-289247 was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 1, 2007, provided with this reference on that date was an English language abstract, whereas provided for this reference with the instant Information Disclosure Statement is a partial English translation thereof. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this partial English translation be considered by the Examiner. Additionally, also provided herewith for the Examiner's consideration is a copy of an Office Action dated April 6, 2007, issued for the Japanese application corresponding to the instant application, along with a partial English translation of this Office Action.

5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.
6. ☐ Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d)
Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

REMARKS

On May 3, 2007, an Information Disclosure Statement was filed for the above-identified application. This Information Disclosure Statement included a copy of JP 9-289247 along with a partial English language translation thereof, and a copy of JP 11-204520 along with its English language abstract and a partial English language translation thereof. Neither the Form PTO-1449 accompanying the Information Disclosure Statement, nor any portion of the Information Disclosure Statement, indicated that the partial English language translation of JP '520 was provided. Thus, the Notice of Allowability mailed by the USPTO on June 1, 2007, included no indication that the partial English language translation of JP '520 was considered by the Examiner.

Accordingly, on June 12, 2007, Applicants' undersigned representative contacted Examiner Stevenson via telephone and inquired as to what should be done such that official PTO records would indicate that the partial English language translation of JP '520 was indeed considered. Examiner Stevenson indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement as filed May 3, 2007 (including JP '520 and its partial English language translation and its English language abstract) should be re-submitted with the Form PTO-1449 being modified so as to indicate that both the partial English language translation and the English language abstract are provided for JP '520.

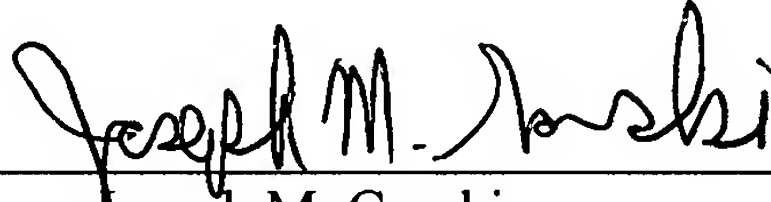
Thus, provided herewith is the Information Disclosure Statement as filed May 3, 2007, including JP '520 and its partial English language translation and its English language abstract, with the Form PTO-1449 having been modified to indicate the same. Additionally, please note that JP '297 is also again provided along with its English language abstract and partial English language translation (this abstract was initially provided with the IDS filed February 1, 2007, and this partial translation was initially provided with the IDS filed May 3, 2007). The modified Form PTO-1449 is also reflective of this.

Because all of the documents currently submitted were previously submitted for the Examiner's consideration, with the only difference being changes to the Form PTO-1449,

requested is a Supplemental Notice of Allowability indicating that all submitted documents have been considered by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Tetsuya MATSUTANI

By 
Joseph M. Gorski
Registration No. 46,500
Attorney for Applicant

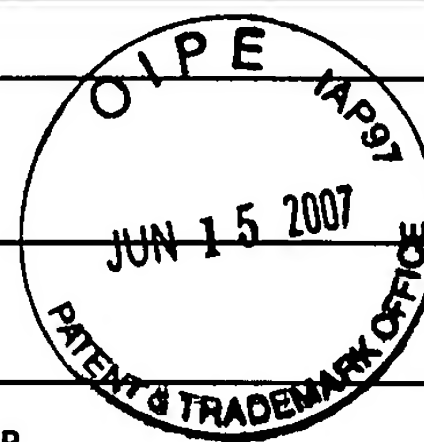
JMG/nka
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
June 15, 2007

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: June 14, 2007

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2003_1039ASERIAL NO.
10/630,681APPLICANT
Tetsuya MATSUTANIFILING DATE
July 31, 2003GROUP
2812

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AJ	9-289247	11-1997	JP			Partial & Abstract	
	AK	11-204520	7-1999	JP			Partial & Abstract	
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.